

What is claimed is:

1. A releasable snap-in window assembly for an aircraft having a sidewall with an inner perimeter that defines an opening, the assembly comprising;  
an inner and outer window frame attachable to the sidewall adjacent to the inner  
perimeter, the inner window frame defining a first opening; and  
the outer window frame attachable to the inner window frame adjacent the first  
opening, the outer window frame defining a second opening.

2. The window assembly of Claim 1, further comprising a releasable coupling means, wherein the releasable coupling means includes a shaped flange of the inner window frame attached to the outer side wall and coupled to a deformable flange of the outer window frame.

3. The window assembly of Claim 2, wherein the deformable flange is formed in the shape of a hook to engage the shaped flange.

4. The window assembly of Claim 2, wherein the shaped flange is further attached to the outer sidewall by one or more spring clips.

5. The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the releasable coupling means further includes a pawl latch mechanism.

6. The window assembly of Claim 5, wherein the pawl latch mechanism further comprises engaging the shaped flange along one or more index points to couple and decouple the window assembly from the outer sidewall.

7. The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the outer window frame is attached to the inner window frame by a plurality of fastening devices.

8. The window assembly of Claim 7, wherein the fastening devices include snap fasteners releasably secured to an accommodating protrusion on the outer window frame and that further snap over the perimeter of the inner window frame.

9. The window assembly of Claim 1, wherein the sidewall is a removable sidewall.

10. A method of releasably coupling a snap-in window assembly to a sidewall of an aircraft, the method comprising:

- 5           attaching an inner window frame to the sidewall adjacent to an inner perimeter, the inner window frame defining a first opening; and  
          attaching an outer window frame readily attachable to the inner window frame adjacent the first opening, the outer window frame defining a second opening.

10       11. The method of Claim 10, wherein releasably coupling the snap-in window assembly to the sidewall includes engaging a shaped flange of the inner window frame attached to the outer side wall and a deformable flange of the outer window frame.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the deformable flange is formed in the shape of a hook to engage the shaped flange.

15       13. The method of Claim 11, wherein the shaped flange is further attached to the outer sidewall by one or more spring clips.

14. The method of Claim 10, wherein releasably coupling the snap-in window assembly to a sidewall of an aircraft includes a pawl latch mechanism.

20       15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the pawl latch mechanism further comprises engaging the shaped flange along one or more index points to couple and decouple the window assembly from the outer sidewall.

16. The method of Claim 10, wherein the outer window frame is attached to the inner window frame by a plurality of fastening devices.

25       17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the fastening devices include snap fasteners releasably secured to an accommodating protrusion on the outer window frame and that further snap over the perimeter of the inner window frame.

18. The method Claim 10, wherein the sidewall is a removable sidewall.

19. A snap-in window assembly for an aircraft having a sidewall with an inner perimeter that defines an opening, the assembly comprising:

an inner window frame attachable to the sidewall adjacent to an inner perimeter, the inner window frame defining a first opening,

an outer window frame readily attachable to the inner window frame by a plurality of fastening devices releasably secured to an accommodating protrusion on the outer window frame and that further snap over the perimeter of the inner window frame adjacent the first opening, the outer window frame defining a second opening; and

a means for releasably coupling the outer window frame and the inner window frame within the first opening of the inner window frame, wherein the releasably coupling means includes a shaped flange of the inner window frame attached to the outer side wall by one or more spring clips and coupled to a hook shaped deformable flange of the outer window frame and a pawl latch mechanism for engaging the shaped flange along one or more index points to couple and decouple the window assembly from the outer sidewall.

20. The window assembly of Claim 19, wherein the sidewall is a removable sidewall.